Relocation of human settlements in wildlife sanctuaries

1430. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for relocation of human settlements in wildlife sanctuaries;

(b) if so, details thereto;

(c) whether his Ministry received project report from Kerala regarding relocation of human settlement in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary;

(d) if so, details of the scheme therein; and

(e) the action taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) Under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes-*Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Project Tiger,* Government of India provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments for various activities aimed at wildlife conservation including relocation of human settlements from National parks and wildlife Sanctuaries. Government of India has received a proposal from Government of Kerala for relocating 983 families in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary at a cost of Rs. 85 crores. Such proposals are processed by the Central Government subject to the availability of funds, conformity of the proposal to the guidelines in *vogue* and fulfillment of necessary legal and administrative requirements.

Ganga Expressway Project

1431. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Minisry has received any representation from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for environmental clearance of "Ganga Expressway Project" from Ballia to Noida;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether Government would accord sanction without considering the environmental and ecological aspect/impact of the project;

(d) whether Government is aware that this project is ruinous to river Ganga; and

(e) if so, the steps Government proposed/would propose to save Ganga from this disastrous Expressway in the interest of ecology and people residing in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 the projects falling under category 'B' are to be apprised by State level Environmental Appraisal Committee and approval accorded by the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority. As per the information received the Uttar Pradesh State level Environment Impact Assessment Authority has granted environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 for the "Ganga Expressway Project" *vide* their letter dated 23.8.2007.